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Ontario

Ontario Women's Directorate

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HELPING WOMEN GET BETTER JOBS
Promoting Women's Economic Independence

QUEEN'S PARK – The Ontario government today announced funding that will enable women to receive pre-apprenticeship training in the New Home Building/General Carpentry program at The Centre for Skills Development and Training in Burlington, through the government's Women In Skilled Trades Program (WIST).

"Our government is committed to helping women learn the skills they need to secure good jobs and become economically independent," said Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. "WIST is also helping to address Ontario's skills shortages by offering training in trades that are in high demand in specific areas."

The Centre for Skills Development and Training is receiving up to $181,310 from the Ontario Women's Directorate to deliver the pre-apprenticeship training program for up to 20 women. Classes started on February 21.

The WIST program targets unemployed and low-income women and provides pre-apprenticeship training in a range of skilled trades. It includes in-school training and a paid on-the-job work placement with local employers. Government funding covers the women's tuition fees and other costs related to the program such as supplies.

"With the construction industry facing a critical shortage of skilled workers, there are many more opportunities now available for women. At the end of the day, hard working and highly skilled workers, whether they be male or female, are exactly what the industry wants," said Jill Rydall, licensed carpenter and program instructor at the centre. "Our graduates have had great success in finding full-time employment."

The WIST program also supports a variety of training programs at five other locations: General Carpentry at Georgian College in Barrie; General Carpentry at Conestoga College in Guelph; Welding at La Cité collégiale in Hawkesbury; Native Residential Construction at Northern College in Moosonee; and Industrial Electrician at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

For further information about the program at The Centre for Skills Development and Training in Burlington call Pam Hicks at 905-333-3499, ext.121, or visit www.thecentre.on.ca.

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